

1 ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

2 A software framework that allows seamless integration of generic media players into a web  
3 browser. A media player is a software module that implements specific interfaces; defines a playing  
4 state, such as playing, paused, or stopped; and associates with the playing state a current playback  
5 time. A generic media player implements interfaces, including timing interfaces and playback  
6 synchronization interfaces for exchanging timing and synchronization information with a web  
7 browser. A player-hosting peer, which is a software component built into the browser, manages  
8 generic player hosting by a web browser. The player-hosting peer negotiates playback state and  
9 rendering status between the browser and the media player. Both the media player and the player-  
10 hosting peer maintain playing state and current playback time. The relationship between the peer and  
11 the player is a master slave relationship, with the peer being the master. The peer issues commands to  
12 the player, and the player notifies the peer of any state changes. A proxy layer allows external media  
13 players to integrate seamlessly into a browser.